GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:417
ANSWERED ON:03.02.2017
Research and Development of Life Saving Drugs
Gogoi Shri Gaurav;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people die every year due to communicable and seasonal outbreak of diseases;

(b) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government to tackle such epidemics effectively;

(c) whether the WHO has suggested/ asked member countries including India to develop a blueprint for research and development of life saving R&D during epidemics; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the necessary steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): Yes. People die every year due to communicable and seasonal outbreak of diseases.

(b): With the objective to tackle disease outbreaks due to epidemic prone diseases, the Government has launched Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) which is implemented in all States/Union Territories. Besides, a network of viral research and diagnostic laboratories has been set up all across the country to deal with epidemic of diseases of viral origin.

(c): The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published a document in May, 2016 titled - "AN R&D BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION TO PREVENT EPIDEMICS - FUNDING & COORDINATION MODELS FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, and asked the Member countries, including India to develop a research and development blueprint to accelerate lifesaving Research and Development during epidemics. The above document is available at WHO's website. Accordingly, a Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has been founded by the Governments of Norway and India (the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Department of Health and Family Welfare of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), the Wellcome Trust, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Economic Forum in collaboration with industry, other governments, foundations regulatory bodies, civil society and the World Health Organisation. The CEPI will prioritise list of diseases against which vaccines are most feasible to overcome barriers for development of vaccines.